

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

Meeting Minutes: July 15, 2014 (New Hampshire Fire Academy, Concord)

Members Present

Liz Charlebois (LC)
Steve Daigle (SD)
Al Gauvin (AG)
Robert Goodby (RG)
Peter Newell (PN)
Darryl Peasley (DP)
Kent Whitman (KW)

Members Not Present

Vicki Blanchard
Lynn Graton /Julianne Morse
Peggy Fullerton
Georgia Edwards
Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh
Melanie Benson Taylor

Public Attendees: None

Quorum: Yes

- LC called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.
- LC distributed a treasurer's report prepared by Vicky Blanchard. There were no receipts and no expenses since the last meeting and the balance remained at \$1,149.00.

1. Committee Reports

- RG reported that the Protection and Preservation Committee had successfully solicited, received, and transmitted input from the Native American community to NH State Archaeologist Richard Boisvert regarding the disposition of recently discovered Native American skeletal remains from the Fallon site in Manchester. This effort set a precedent for the involvement of the commission in repatriation projects. It was agreed that the Commission needed to establish a standardized procedure for responding to any future requests of this sort. It was also agreed that since the Commission does not represent specific descendant communities that our role should be limited to soliciting and transmitting input from the Native Community, and not offering opinions or judgments on particular cases.
- DP reported that the Arts and Crafts Committee has made additional changes to its Facebook page, and brief discussion followed about ways to list artists and performers.
- KW presented the Nominations Committee report. The Nominations Committee is still waiting for responses from the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists and the NH Office of Tourism and Travel to replace, respectively, former commission members Sherry Gould and Tai Freligh. KW would follow up with another request.

- Education Committee: No report.
- Social Services Committee: No report.
- LC presented the report of the Legislation Committee. Senator David Waters has agreed to help with the introduction of a bill later this year to extend the life of the Commission beyond the 2015 sunset date. Our work with the NH Division of Historical Resources and the State Arts Council will be particularly useful as examples of the important work of the Commission. Discussion followed about how the Committee is top-heavy with appointed members from outside the Native American community, and how as legislation is drafted to avoid sunset in 2015 the composition of the Commission could be restructured. Currently, five of the fifteen positions are appointed. The appropriateness of the Society of Genealogists and the NH Office of Travel and Tourism having designated members on the Commission was discussed, as was the effectiveness to date of having an appointed representative from Dartmouth College. A meeting with Senator Waters is scheduled for July 22 in Concord, and all members of the Commission were invited to attend.

2. Annual Report

- LC reported that the Annual Report is complete and was submitted on time. We are waiting for guidance on final submission from Elizabeth Muzzey. Future reports can utilize the format of this report.

3. Committee Memberships

- Current committee memberships and chair positions were reviewed, and committees needing additional members were identified. A general discussion of committee memberships and functions ensued.

4. Historical Markers

- RG reported that the Committee was waiting for a response from Ben Wilson of NH Parks and Recreation to specific questions about the format of proposed signage for the Hannah Dustin site in Boscawen. LC reported having been contacted about a private marker being proposed for the White Mountains. The Commission's earlier request to be consulted on all state signage concerning Native Americans is being sent to NHDOT.

5. Election of Secretary

- Nominations were sought to serve the balance of the Secretary's term now that Tai Freligh has resigned. SD was nominated by DP, and the nomination was seconded by PN. SD was elected unanimously. LC requested that all future minutes include highlighted action items at the end of the minutes.

6. Next Meeting

- The next Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, September 16 at 2:00 PM at the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner.

- A motion to adjourn was made by KW, seconded by PN, and unanimously approved. The meeting concluded at 3:10 PM.

Action Items:

- Meeting on July 22 with Senator Waters on legislation to avoid sunseting.
- Development of a standardized procedure to assist the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources by soliciting input on disposition of Native American remains.
- Continued work to develop committee memberships and meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Goodby, Secretary *pro tem*